

22 BANDITS SURRENDER IN MAPUTO

DAILY NEWS: 8/1/88

Maputo, Thursday.
TWENTY-TWO MNR bandits have surrendered in central Manica Province in response to an amnesty announced by the Government last month, Maputo

radio reported.

The former bandits were handed over by Manica provincial army commander Lieutenant-Colonel Fernando Tembo to local Red Cross officials who said they would be resettled in accordance with their individual wishes, the radio said yesterday.

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, in a bid to end a 12-year-old MNR banditry, last month granted an amnesty to criminals who laid down their arms.

Meanwhile, a group of MNR bandits kidnapped a woman and two small boys and stole food in a raid on a Zambian border village on Tuesday, Zambian National Radio reported today.

The radio quoted local government officials as saying that 10 bandits attacked a village south of Chadiza, abducting the three and carrying off bags of maize flour.

No casualties were reported.

It was the second raid by the bandits on Zambian territory in three weeks. Last month, MNR bandits killed one person and abducted eight others in a cross-border raid on Tafelonsoni near Chadiza.

In last month's raid the bandits destroyed houses and vehicles at a border post and stole maize flour and 600 head of cattle. They also left behind portraits of Afonso Dhlakama, their leader, and a letter to the Zambian Government written in Portuguese and Chichewa, the local dialect.

The letter said: "We have attacked Tafelonsoni and the border post to show our annoyance to (Zambian) President Kaunda over his continued support of the (Mozambican) Frelimo Government and we will not stop until this support is withdrawn"

Zambian leaders have warned they will retaliate against attacks by the bandits which has been sponsored by Pretoria to destabilize Mozambique.